BRITISH·COLUMBIA'S

ENVIRONMENT

Planning for the Future

CONSERVING OUR RESOURCE: FISHERIES PROGRAM STRATEGIC PLAN 1991–1995

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CONSERVING OUR RESOURCE

FISHERIES PROGRAM STRATEGIC PLAN

1991 – 1995

BC Environment

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We welcome your comments:

We at the Fisheries Program are keenly interested in your thoughts on how we can best safeguard and revitalize our fisheries. Your ideas on this strategic plan will help shape future directions in fisheries management.

Comments should be submitted in writing to:

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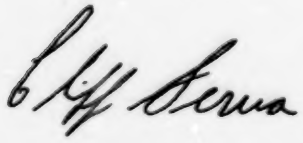
MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

British Columbia is fortunate to have rich and varied fisheries that offer many recreational, cultural and economic benefits. However, the enduring health of fish stocks and habitat is in jeopardy. We — the government and people of this province — must work together to sustain thriving, abundant fisheries for generations of British Columbians to come.

The Fisheries Program of B.C. Environment has developed this strategic plan to define the environmental challenges facing fisheries management, and to propose effective policies and actions. B.C. Environment is committed to confronting such issues in a framework of consultation and partnership — not only within government, but also with the public and key stakeholders in the resource.

The fisheries strategy is one of several resource management plans being prepared throughout the ministry, under the banner of British Columbia's Environment: Planning for the Future. *Different programs in B.C. Environment will issue strategies aimed at protecting and enriching other major resources, including wildlife, water and air. They will all share the important goals of assuring long-term ecological health through assertive action and public consultation.*

As Minister of Environment, I encourage you to review carefully the first of those crucial strategies, Conserving Our Resource, *and to pass on your reactions and ideas to the Fisheries Program. This plan is not etched in stone. Rather, it is a living document, which will be regularly reviewed and updated. Your input is important to us and will help shape the direction of fisheries management in the future. In this way, our work to ensure a sound and sustainable fisheries resource will reflect the needs and views of British Columbians everywhere.*



Cliff Serwa
Minister of Environment
Government of British Columbia

April 1991

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1

INTRODUCTION

The fisheries of British Columbia are a vital part of our environment and economy, prized for many reasons. The resource supports world-renowned sport fishing, which provides the province with substantial recreational and economic benefits. Fish are also very important to the culture and subsistence of our aboriginal people. As well, watching fish — while they are spawning, for example — offers all British Columbians the chance for enjoyment, and education about fish and their environment. Finally, the condition, type and abundance of fish populations act as an important barometer of the health of the aquatic environment.

But that valuable resource is in danger. Overfishing and habitat destruction are harsh realities threatening the fisheries' health and productivity. In fact, the 1990s will be a critical decade in determining the future of B.C.'s fisheries. It is imperative that we take assertive action to enhance and protect both fish stocks and habitat.

B.C. Environment, through the Fisheries Program, is committed to strong leadership in conserving our resource. The ministry's mandate is ***"to serve British Columbians by protecting and enhancing the environment while sustaining our quality of life."*** That applies directly to fisheries management and is reflected in the priorities of the Fisheries Program.

Conserving Our Resource seeks to identify the issues and problems facing the fisheries. It lays out clear and comprehensive initiatives to ensure wise resource management, conservation and allocation, firmly based on a commitment to public input and discussion. Its main focus is on the freshwater fisheries, where most of British Columbia's management responsibility lies.

The strategy reflects B.C. Environment's belief in the principle of "sustainable development." The term is founded on the fact that economic and environmental health are inextricably linked in a life-sustaining cycle. Human and social prosperity cannot exist without a solid, thriving economy. Economic vitality depends, in turn, on a rich and continuing supply of natural resources. Hence, strong economic activity is important, but it must be pursued within the limits required for long-term environmental health and resource abundance. Such balanced development will lead to economic and environmental well-being that is enduring and "sustainable."

With respect to the fisheries resource, the concept of sustainable development translates into maintaining the integrity of natural ecosystems and making sure that fishing does not exceed the resource's ability to replenish itself. Rising demands for sport fishing and backcountry recreation are placing more pressure on the fisheries, as are the expanding sport fishing businesses. We urgently need to balance increasing resource use with decreasing supply.

Wise stewardship will also require that activities which can damage fish and fish habitat are carried out with care, to protect and preserve the fisheries. Those activities include industrial projects, resource exploitation (such as agriculture, forestry and mining), transportation, hydro development and urban expansion. Sustaining the fisheries resource will allow our children and their descendants to enjoy its many benefits and pleasures.

2

PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Conserving Our Resource focuses on how the Fisheries Program will address fisheries management issues over the next five years. The strategy describes the direction of the Fisheries Program and provides a framework within which to co-ordinate program activities. It begins by stating the goal, management principles and strategic objectives of the Fisheries Program, and then outlines the major strategies that need to be employed to meet those challenges. The strategies often indicate what needs to be done ***in addition*** to current work.

Implementing the strategies will involve the major activities of the Fisheries Program listed in the appendix. So that all readers will have a common understanding, the glossary defines the terms used in this paper.

The strategic plan will be the basis for setting program priorities, implementing activities and carrying out program evaluation. Since the Fisheries Program is solidly committed to public input, it will regularly update the plan to reflect public demands and changing resource issues. By outlining the explicit issues and strategies involving fisheries management in British Columbia, *Conserving Our Resource* is meant to help people respond to the intended direction of the Fisheries Program.

The current activities of the Fisheries Program will be reviewed within the context of this strategic plan, and some reallocation of resources will likely occur. However, there is little room for reallocation without creating new problems. Hence, this plan provides the foundation for identifying required resources.

3

THE FISHERIES PROGRAM

A. Our Goal and Principles

The Fisheries Program's responsibilities are summarized in its ***Goal Statement***:

> ***We manage fish, fish habitat and sport fishing for the people of British Columbia.***

Before discussing the principles that spring from that underlying goal, let us define what areas of the fisheries the provincial government is responsible for overseeing. The legislative base for the provincial Fisheries Program is federal in nature, as the Government of Canada has the exclusive legislative authority to conserve and protect fish in Canada's oceans and inland fisheries. However, British Columbia is responsible for administering, conserving and developing freshwater fisheries, except anadromous salmon. The province also works closely with the federal government in the management of marine fisheries.

Within the mandate of B.C. Environment, the Fisheries Program is responsible for all freshwater fish. The provincial Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries manages the limited commercial harvesting of freshwater species along with the aquaculture industry.

In carrying out our goal, we in the Fisheries Program are guided by the following management principles:

Resource Management Principles

Fish Resources — We are stewards of fish. Our priority is conserving wild fish and their habitat.

Sport Fishing — We provide diverse fishing opportunities for the economic and social benefit of British Columbians.

Marketing — We inform the public about fish, fish habitat, sport fishing and related management. Our clients are anglers, the sport fishing industry, Native people and nonconsumptive users. We assess what they want and use that information in shaping program direction.

Social Responsibility — We are committed to preserving the integrity of the environment. We respond to our society's needs, traditions and cultures. We inform the public about our activities and encourage its participation in the Fisheries Program. We contribute our technical knowledge to the scientific community.

Corporate Management Principles

Program Integration — We are an integral part of B.C. Environment. We work co-operatively with other programs in the ministry and with other ministries in the provincial government to achieve the objectives of the Fisheries Program and B.C. Environment.

Productivity — Reaching our goal depends on our individual and collective productivity. We set relevant and attainable objectives, allocate resources based on program priorities, measure our progress and evaluate our effectiveness.

Innovation — We are innovators in the management of fish, fish habitat and sport fishing. We anticipate change, act on opportunities, support creativity and abandon the obsolete.

Human Resources — We are a skilled and committed organization. We recruit the best, expect the best, and treat each other well. Together, we create a work environment in which we can find achievement, recognition and personal growth.

Physical Resources — Our facilities and equipment are owned by the public. We allocate them to meet program priorities. We use, maintain and renew them to ensure safety, to optimize productivity and to present a good image.

Financial Resources — Our financial resources are public funds for which we are all accountable. We compete for them within government and allocate them according to program priorities. We control their expenditure and evaluate their use.

B. Program Strategy

The Fisheries Program has four main *Strategic Objectives*:

1. ***Conserve Wild Fish Stocks***
2. ***Protect and Manage Fish Habitat***
3. ***Serve the Public Interest***
4. ***Practise Strong Corporate Management***

All four strategic objectives are essential to the program goal — which, to reiterate, is the responsible management of fish, fish habitat and sport fishing. However, priority is given to conserving wild fish stocks, and to protecting and managing fish habitat. The strategic objectives are integrally related, and all activities of the Fisheries Program are directed towards meeting one or more of them.

Many issues and pressures surrounding the fisheries resource will affect how well the Fisheries Program is able to achieve its four objectives. In the following chapters we will look at the predominant issues in the realm of each key objective, which often complicate or hinder the work to attain that objective.

We will then outline the efforts we must take to address the issues, in our quest for a vital and sustainable fisheries resource. Here the task will be two-fold. First, we will describe the main strategy needed to deal with each specific ecological issue. Second, we will elaborate by listing the activities required to carry out the strategy. It must be noted, though, that the lists are preliminary ones. A complete set of activities and an associated action plan will have to be developed to fully implement each strategy. The public plays a key role in determining both the general direction of the Fisheries Program and specific program activities.

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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1:

CONSERVE WILD FISH STOCKS

Assessment and Management — Conserving wild fish populations is the fundamental principle of fisheries management in British Columbia. This province possesses many unique wild fish populations. However, we have relatively little understanding of their abundance, distribution and population dynamics. We need to adopt a co-ordinated approach to assessing and managing wild fish stocks — in our operations and in measuring our success.

Identifying and monitoring both sport fish and nongame species are crucial to the preservation of wild fish. Since sport fish are subject to harvesting by anglers, they will require more management than nongame fish, except nongame species that are threatened or endangered.

✔ ***Strategy:***
Implement a co-ordinated approach to assessing and managing wild fish populations throughout the province.

Activities include:

- Developing policy and procedures to define, identify and manage wild fish populations.
- Classifying systems based on stock status.
- Establishing targets for wild stocks by region and habitat type.
- Setting conditions for hatchery introductions.
- Creating and maintaining a co-ordinated inventory of wild fish populations.
- Assessing and monitoring the status of wild fish populations.
- Determining population dynamics.

Angling — Residents and nonresidents alike enjoy angling on thousands of lakes and streams throughout British Columbia. It is important that the Fisheries Program prevent damage to wild fish populations, which angling can cause, and cope with rising angler demand.

Intensive fisheries management is therefore required in the form of regulation and/or enhancement. Such management is often complex — as in the case of mixed-stock fisheries — and expensive. That makes it impractical to handle each individual fishery in a distinct manner.

✔ ***Strategy:***
Prevent the overharvesting of wild stocks by using conservative regulations to manage fisheries.

Activities include:

- Determining population dynamics and stock productivity indices related to specific lake/river characteristics.
- Developing policy and procedures for managing lakes and rivers with similar characteristics — to reduce the number of fisheries requiring intensive assessment and monitoring (e.g. by using index fisheries).
- Assessing and monitoring angler use and stock status in key fisheries.
- Regulating the harvest of wild fish stocks using rigorous guidelines, in the context of regional plans.
- Informing and educating anglers about the reasons for regulations.
- Restoring fish stocks that do not respond to regulation.

Commercial Interception of Sport Fish — Federally regulated commercial fisheries intercept large numbers of sport fish (mainly steelhead, and chinook and coho salmon) incidental to the target species. That significantly reduces sport fishing opportunities, and threatens or severely depresses many wild stocks. The problem of incidental catches exists on the high seas and transboundary rivers, as well as within provincial boundaries.

✔ ***Strategy:***
Reduce the commercial interception of nontarget sport fish.

Activities include:

- Determining run timing and assessing the effects of commercial fishing methods on sport fish.
- Developing interagency agreements with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to minimize the commercial interception of sport fish.
- Assessing and monitoring fish populations affected by commercial interceptions.
- Informing and educating the public in order to increase its understanding of this issue.

Long-Term Environmental Change — If we are to successfully protect and preserve wild fish, we must be able to accurately track long-term trends in fish populations. In turn, we need to link those trends to slow-moving intrinsic factors or to environmental changes such as industrial contamination and global warming. Since fish are valuable sentinels of ecological change, the benefits of addressing this issue extend into the question of general environmental quality.

✔ ***Strategy:***
Identify and mitigate the effects of environmental changes on fish populations.

Activities include:

- Assessing and monitoring fish populations, in co-operation with ministry and provincial government initiatives.
- Determining the relationship of changes in the environment to changes in fish populations.
- Monitoring the long-term effects of alternate fish-management strategies.

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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2:

PROTECT AND MANAGE FISH HABITAT

Integrated Resource Management — Responsible stewardship of the fisheries resource extends to protecting habitat, and to preserving the ecological health and beauty of the area that anglers use. The Fisheries Program must rely on negotiating with individuals, industries and government agencies to manage the impact of their activities on fish habitat and the surrounding aesthetics.

Accelerating industrial, hydroelectric and urban development has overloaded B.C. Environment's ability to respond adequately to each project. Moreover, there is no assurance that our recommendations will be met and no formal system in place to monitor program effectiveness. We need the information, authority and ability to properly represent the interests of the fisheries resource so that they are seriously considered in government decisions.

✔ ***Strategy:***
Strengthen the role of the Fisheries Program in the integrated management of resources.

Activities include:

- Proposing legislation to strengthen our mandate for protecting fish habitat.
- Developing policy and procedures on mitigation and compensation for habitat loss, with "no net loss" as the underlying principle.
- Creating interagency agreements with other agencies (federal, provincial and municipal) and guidelines for industry, in order to recognize and respond to fish habitat and angler use issues.
- Building information systems to permit more efficient storage and retrieval of habitat data, and processing of interagency referrals.
- Informing and educating the public about habitat protection.
- Restoring habitat that has been harmed by development.

Habitat Protection — The Fisheries Program is committed to better habitat protection. In most cases, comprehensive guidelines describing acceptable development methods can provide the direction developers need to minimize impacts on fish habitat. For high-priority areas, though, more specific recommendations are required in order to maintain wild fish, sport fishing opportunities and/or angling aesthetics.

✔ ***Strategy:***
Improve the effectiveness of habitat protection work.

Activities include:

- Identifying high-priority areas for habitat protection through effective planning.
- Developing guidelines for acceptable development methods.
- Setting policy and procedures to tie habitat protection activities directly to the preservation of fish stocks and/or angler use areas.
- Creating a policy for managing angler use areas.

Quantification of Fish Habitat — We have only a limited ability to assess the impact of development on both fish habitat and the area anglers use for their sport. Our capacity to evaluate the merit of recommended protection methods is similarly inadequate. We need a thorough and accurate information base — one that allows both specific and cumulative effects to be considered. That will facilitate the identification and understanding of how habitat changes affect fish and the surrounding environment.

✔ ***Strategy:***
Develop the capability to measure the quantity and quality of changes in fish habitat and angler use areas.

Activities include:

- Establishing better techniques to quantify fish habitat.
- Assessing and monitoring changes due to industrial and urban development — in high-priority fish habitat and angler use areas.
- Developing information systems to aid the planning and evaluation of habitat management.
- Determining the factors that limit fish production and angler satisfaction.

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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3:

SERVE THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Public Involvement — The Fisheries Program is committed to encouraging public involvement in fisheries management. The program is influenced by the public's knowledge of fisheries resource issues, its desire to be involved in fisheries management decisions and its strong support for environmental protection.

To open the doors to more participation, we need ongoing, two-way interaction that allows the Fisheries Program to respond to the public's priorities and, in turn, allows the public to be aware of and involved in program activities. Such a relationship should extend beyond the direct users of the fisheries to ensure that all British Columbians have an opportunity to contribute to the program.

✔ ***Strategy:***
Involve the public in managing the fisheries resource.

Activities include:

- Developing plans to effectively involve the public in various aspects of the Fisheries Program.
- Assessing and monitoring public knowledge, preferences and attitudes.
- Informing and educating the public about all aspects of the program.
- Setting up a public advisory process to stimulate public participation in program development and government decision making.
- Involving the public in fisheries assessment and enhancement work.

Meeting Angler Demand — In response to angler demand, the Fisheries Program seeks to maintain plentiful and diversified fish populations. The provincial hatchery system plays a key role here, by annually stocking over a thousand lakes and rivers with sport fish — many of those water bodies are not capable of naturally producing sport fish. The quality of the surrounding environment also influences the angling experience. It, too, must be explicitly considered and safeguarded in the habitat management process.

To make sure we are providing the opportunities anglers want, we must stay abreast of changes in anglers' characteristics and preferences. We need to give anglers realistic choices and be able to respond to their preferences within the ecological capability of the resource.

✔ ***Strategy:***
Meet angler demand, where possible, within the limits of wild stock conservation.

Activities include:

- Enhancing fish stocks through the hatchery system to increase angling opportunities.
- Surveying the public to identify its characteristics, angling preferences, opinions and reactions to various management activities.
- Enhancing fish habitat to enrich angling opportunities.
- Setting objectives for angling, within the context of regional plans.
- Developing policy and procedures to define the "diversity of angling opportunity" — and creating operational guidelines and regulations to achieve it.

Balancing the Recreational and Commercial Use of Sport Fishing — Businesses based on sport fishing (guiding, packing, fishing resorts) have expanded rapidly in recent years, as part of the general upswing in provincial tourism and backcountry recreation. Such growth has the potential for generating major economic benefits. But, at the same time, it increases the competition for already limited angling opportunities. The needs of the sport fishing industry and those of individual anglers must be met through fair and responsible management.

✔ ***Strategy:***
Ensure an appropriate allocation of the use of the resource — between resident anglers and sport fishing businesses.

Activities include:

- Defining resident anglers' use and preferences.
- Examining the sport fishing industry, to find out what kinds of angling opportunities it provides and how the industry affects the economy.
- Developing policy and procedures to allocate angling activities among various user groups.
- Regulating angler guides, fishing lodges and related businesses.
- Developing interagency agreements with the Ministries of Tourism and Crown Lands, and other ministries with jurisdiction in this area.
- Involving the public in the decision making on fisheries allocation.

Tidal and Nontidal Salmon Sport Fisheries — Tidal and nontidal salmon sport fisheries produce significant rewards for the province and, in general, raise the profile of sport fishing. The federal government holds direct management control over all salmon fisheries. However, in licensing freshwater salmon anglers and managing angler guides, the Fisheries Program can significantly shape the province's management of river sport fisheries. For those reasons, the provincial government has a strong interest in the way in which salmon fisheries are managed.

The Fisheries Program is taking a leading role — along with the Ministries of Tourism; Agriculture and Fisheries; and Crown Lands — in representing provincial interests in salmon sport fisheries.

✔ ***Strategy:***
Promote and support tidal and nontidal salmon sport fisheries, and related businesses.

Activities include:

- Proposing legislation to support the province's role in tidal sport fisheries.

- Developing policy and procedures to clearly define the role and position of the provincial government in tidal and nontidal salmon sport fisheries.

- Creating agreements with provincial ministries, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the sport fishing industry.

- Planning for the sustainable development of such fisheries.

Native Participation — The aboriginal right of Native people to fish was recognized and affirmed in a recent Supreme Court of Canada ruling (Sparrow decision — May 31, 1990). In that decision, aboriginal users were granted first priority in the allocation of fish harvests, subject to government regulations for conservation.

Regulations limiting Native use must be for justifiable conservation and management purposes. The responsibility for proper conservation now requires that fisheries management programs be adjusted to ensure that Native people — the priority users of the resource — have an appropriate influence in designing and implementing management regimes for fish and fish habitat.

✔ ***Strategy:***
Develop policy on co-operative fisheries management with Native groups.

Activities include:

- Establishing policy and procedures to guide internal negotiations with Native groups on selected fish stocks, fish habitat and enhancement projects.

- Reaching interagency agreements with provincial and federal agencies responsible for Native affairs.

- Creating a public advisory process to involve aboriginal people in fisheries management decisions.

- Consulting with Native groups to identify their requirements for fish.

- Establishing conservation requirements for fish stocks.

Appreciative Uses of Fish — The public values fish for reasons that go beyond direct use. People are interested in watching fish (in natural habitat or hatcheries), participating in fisheries management, maintaining healthy fish populations as an indicator of environmental quality, and ensuring that the fisheries resource remains strong and healthy for present and future recreation. Those less tangible values must be integrated into the efforts of the Fisheries Program.

✔ ***Strategy:***
Recognize and develop opportunities for the appreciative uses of fish.

Activities include:

- Surveying the public to identify interest, participation and value of appreciative uses of fish.
- Developing and enhancing the opportunities for watching fish — and informing the public about such opportunities.
- Involving the public in fisheries assessment and enhancement.

7

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4:

PRACTISE STRONG CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

Planning and Organizational Structure — The manifold pressures on the fisheries make reaching the objectives of this plan a marked challenge. The Fisheries Program must, therefore, make the best use of available resources in responding to those demands. That involves planning, setting priorities, and allocating funds and manpower. Such requirements must be clearly identified and communicated so that we can carry out the strategies, and thereby ensure a sustainable fisheries resource.

✔ ***Strategy:***
Plan and organize the Fisheries Program to most effectively meet the objectives of this strategic plan.

Activities include:

- Reorganizing the Fisheries Program so that it is in a good position to meet the needs identified in the plan.
- Identifying the resources required to execute the plan and communicating those needs to the Executive of B.C. Environment.
- Undertaking co-ordinated planning at the regional and operational levels that reflects the directions in the strategic plan.
- Using the strategic plan as the basis for regional and operational planning, setting program priorities, and allocating funds and manpower.

Human Resources — Employees constitute the most critical component of any organization; so a high priority must be given to employee issues in the Fisheries Program. That is sometimes a challenge in the face of intense demands on the program, but it must be kept in the forefront.

✔ ***Strategy:***
Recognize and respond to the needs of all employees, in the context of a strong Fisheries Program and ministry identity.

Activities include:

- Staff and management working together to identify human resource requirements, and to propose and bring about solutions.
- Ensuring regular communication among the staff and managers throughout the program.
- Identifying human resource needs and ensuring that those needs are addressed.

Information Systems — Information systems describing the status of fish stocks, their habitat and the use of the resource form an essential aspect of implementing program strategies and evaluating program success. Systems development is difficult, though, because of the complexity of data requirements and the need to co-ordinate with many other programs and agencies. Creating comprehensive and accurate systems of information is vital to achieving Fisheries Program objectives.

✔ ***Strategy:***
Ensure the development of reliable and thorough information systems concerning natural resource and corporate management.

Activities include:

- Planning for a strong and defensible information system strategy for the Fisheries Program.
- Communicating information systems requirements to the Systems Services Branch and the Environment Information Committee — and making sure those needs are addressed.
- Developing information systems with the necessary co-ordination among program components, regions and other ministry programs.
- Training staff to make good use of information systems.

Program Evaluation — This plan provides the framework within which we can assess the performance and success of the Fisheries Program. We must evaluate how successful the Fisheries Program is in reaching the plan's

strategic objectives, both in completing tasks and bringing about a sustainable resource. We can then use that information to adjust and improve the program, where necessary.

✔ ***Strategy:***
Evaluate the program at all levels and use the information to better meet program objectives.

Activities include:

- Creating policy and procedures for evaluation at all levels of the program.
- Monitoring and assessing the completion of tasks, achievement of operational goals, and effectiveness of the Fisheries Program in meeting the strategic objectives.
- Developing information systems to permit evaluation and to use the results in subsequent program planning.

Provincial Fisheries Legislation — As we discussed in chapter 3, the federal government holds the exclusive legislative power to conserve and protect fish in Canada's coastal and inland fisheries. However, British Columbia is responsible for administering, conserving and developing freshwater fisheries, except anadromous salmon.

A variety of federal and provincial legislation, and associated regulations, govern the activities of the Fisheries Program — including the federal Fisheries Act and the provincial Wildlife Act. Consolidation and clarification of those laws and regulations would assist the Fisheries Program in its work.

✔ ***Strategy:***
Propose legislation covering all aspects of the Fisheries Program.

Activities include:

- Developing proposals on provincial legislation and regulations to clarify and consolidate the responsibilities of the Fisheries Program.
- Participating in the review of B.C. Environment's legislation.
- Consulting with other government agencies, jurisdictions and the public in the development of any new legislation and regulations.

8

IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGIC PLAN

This strategic plan is a living document which will be reviewed and revised regularly — based on public feedback, and on changing resource issues and priorities. The plan will be used for the following purposes:

- To provide direction to Fisheries Program staff.
- To establish the framework for program planning, budgeting and evaluation.
- To rationalize the need for additional resources.
- To promote communication outside the Fisheries Program.
- To act as one vehicle for public involvement in the Fisheries Program.

Those initiatives are vital to meeting the challenges that face the Fisheries Program, as outlined in our strategic plan.

Conserving our valuable fisheries resource will depend on the concerted effort of not only the government, but all the people of British Columbia.

APPENDIX:

ACTIVITIES OF THE FISHERIES PROGRAM

The following activities are associated with one or more aspects of the Fisheries Program — identified in our goal statement as fish, fish habitat and sport fishing:

Legislation
Policy and procedures
Interagency agreements, guidelines
Process referrals
Planning
Regulation
Licences
Enforcement — direction and monitoring
Mitigation and compensation
Enhancement
Engineering services
Inventory
Assessment and monitoring
Fish health analysis
Economic analysis
Research and development
Evaluation
Technical/expert support/advice
User/public surveys
Information systems
Public communication
Corporate management activities

GLOSSARY

Activities — In this strategic plan, the term describes the work of the Fisheries Program. Similarly, it refers to the functions that are required to implement a strategy and achieve an objective.

Anadromous — An adjective referring to species that breed in freshwater, after migrating up rivers from the sea. Salmon are anadromous.

Anadromous Streams — The freshwater routes used by species such as steelhead, and chinook and coho salmon, which migrate to the sea to feed and grow, and then return to freshwater spawning areas.

Goal — A broad, all-encompassing statement that outlines the scope of the Fisheries Program. It identifies the business we are in and applies to the long term.

Issue — A concern or problem affecting the achievement of our objectives and the Fisheries Program's goal.

Management Principles — Statements describing the way in which we do business. The general philosophy and ethics of the Fisheries Program. They apply to the long term.

Program Strategy — This outlines what the Fisheries Program does to achieve its goal. It includes objectives (strategic and operational), strategies, activities and work plans. The Program Strategy applies over one to five years.

Strategic Objective — A broad, program-level statement indicating what the Fisheries Program is trying to achieve. The strategic objective indicates the "end" being sought. It is capable of achievement and can be translated into measurable targets.

Strategies — Statements of the means by which strategic objectives are accomplished. Strategies indicate what needs to be done at the program level. A collection of activities working toward a similar end.

COMMENTS